

**Georgia Commission on Child Support
Low-Income Deviation Work Group
Tuesday, October 19, 2021**

Meeting Summary

The Low-Income Deviation Work Group (“Work Group”) of the Georgia Commission on Child Support (“Commission”) held this meeting via videoconferencing using Zoom. Elaine Johnson, Executive Program Manager for the Commission, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Seven Work Group members and three guests attended this open meeting. Staff Attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, and Program Coordinator, Latoinna Lawrence, also served as staff for the meeting. Work Group members in attendance were:

Audrey Bergeson	Jamie Rush
Ryan Bradley	Erica Thornton
Deborah Johnson	Liz Schriber
Sabrina Rivers	

Due to her retirement, one Work Group member, Shirley Champa, asked to be removed from the Work Group bringing the number of members to eleven. At the beginning of the meeting, Staff Attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, confirmed that a quorum of 6 of the 11 Work Group members was present. Elaine Johnson raised the issue of approving the minutes from the last Work Group Meeting which was held on 9/21/2021 and Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez conducted a voice vote. Members of the Work Group unanimously voted to approve those minutes with no abstentions. Erica Thornton joined the call after the vote on the approval of the minutes was held.

Deborah Johnson gave a presentation on her suggestion to add a feature to Georgia’s child support calculator that would elicit information from someone requesting a low-income deviation so that the requester would consider all factors, lay out their case, and the court could see all of the factors presented when determining whether to apply the low-income deviation. Deborah Johnson explained that she is an attorney for the Legal Aid Society and that she represents both low-income custodial parents and non-custodial parents. Ms. Johnson noted that she thinks it is good that Georgia requires judges to consider the effect that granting a low-income deviation would have on both the custodial and non-custodial household. The crux of Ms. Johnson’s suggestion is to embed prompts in the calculator (similar to how the self-employment calculator is embedded within the larger child support calculator) prompting the requester to explain why the low-income deviation is being requested.

Elaine Johnson and Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez thanked Deborah Johnson for her presentation. Audrey Bergeson noted that she liked what Deborah Johnson suggested especially as it would help self-represented litigants better explain why they think the low-income deviation is appropriate for their case.

Elaine Johnson anticipates one more Work Group meeting to compile all ideas before raising all ideas to the Commission’s Technology and Calculator Subcommittee. The next Work Group meeting will be on Tuesday, 11/9/2021 at 9:30 a.m. This meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.